

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on October 24, 2008
SGW Campus H-769, 10am

PRESENT: Ms. Elizabeth Morey (Chair), Ms. Lauren Broad (Secretary), Mr. Ahmed Ali Abumazwed, Ms. Anna Barrafato, Mr. Gerald Beasley, Dr. Donald Boisvert, Dr. Cathy Bolton, Mr. Elie Chivi, Mr. Roger Côté, Ms. Johanne De Cubellis, Ms. Catherine Dicaire, Ms. Melanie Drew, Ms. Angela Ghabban, Ms. Priscila Gomes, Ms. Marlene Gross, Ms. Keyana Kashfi, Ms. Cathy Lin, Mr. Kurt Reckziegel, Mr. Jean-Philippe Savard, Ms. Katie Sheahan, Ms. Laura Stanbra, Ms. Brigitte St-Laurent, Ms. Rose Wangechi, Mr. Devin Wells.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Ms. Daniela Caputo, Ms. Katherine Hedrich, Ms. Lina Lipscombe, Ms. Lorraine Toscano.

ABSENT: Mr. Jean Brisebois

GUEST: Ms. Louyse Lussier

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mr. Boisvert moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Kashfi seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed the Council and encouraged its members to participate in the President's strategic planning consultations. The aim of CCSL member participation in the consultation process is to ensure that the message about the importance of student life is not lost.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2008

Ms. Kashfi moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Dicaire seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Sub-Committees

The Chair noted that there were several positions on the sub-committees that still needed to be filled. She reminded the Council that without enough interest, the *Campus Wellness Committee/Healthy Campus Initiative* might be abandoned. Ms. Ghabban volunteered herself to be the CCSL representative for the *Housing and Job Bank Committee*, while Mr. Savard nominated himself to be one of the graduate student representatives for the *CCSL Special Projects Committee*. The Chair reminded Mr. Savard that if graduate student representatives were not offering to participate on these committees, then the committees would have to go on without their representation. Mr. Savard assured the Council that the GSA would provide the names of their student representatives by the end of the day. Mr. Chivi and Ms. Kashfi also assured the Council that the remaining CSU representatives would be confirmed with the Council as soon as they were decided upon. Ms. Sheahan confirmed that she was in the process of finalizing the two remaining committee members for the *Committee on Communication & Awareness Raising of the Student Services Sector*. The Chair stated that the chairs of each sub-committee should proceed by scheduling their committee meetings accordingly. The Chair also noted that the fall deadline for the CCSL Special Projects was October 20th, 2008 and that the Committee will be reviewing 35 projects requesting funding. The total budget for the Special Projects Committee is \$150,000 and the total amount being requested is approximately \$60,000.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Budget Planning Framework

Mr. Côté circulated a proposed timeline for the review & development of the sector budget for both Student Services and Recreation & Athletics. He reviewed the budget topics to be covered at each of the remaining CCSL meetings and noted that this is in preparation for the development of the next three-year budget. Mr. Côté suggested that weekly working sessions be scheduled from mid-January to mid-February 2009. The working sessions would be designed to clarify issues, get input and to distinguish the different departmental needs. Mr. Côté stated that at January's CCSL meeting, the Council would have a more definite current year-end budget forecast since the deadline for course withdrawal with tuition refund will have passed and expected revenues will be clearer. He stated that although only members of CCSL will have authority to make decisions on the budget, the working sessions would be open to anyone who is interested in the process of budget development. A schedule of the working sessions will be established at the next CCSL meeting to ensure that anyone wishing to attend may do so.

5.2 Recreation & Athletics Loyola Expansion Project

Ms. Sheahan explained to the Council that the purpose of her presentation was to acquaint members of CCSL with a high-level overview of the planned expansion of the Recreation & Athletics facilities on the Loyola campus. She gave a brief speech regarding the limitations of the current facilities and proposed that the new development would be large enough to accommodate the University's needs, as well as to establish important community based links. The strong community partnership will aid Concordia University in obtaining government funding for the project. Ms. Sheahan reminded the Council that the current facilities have not received any significant updates since they were built in 1967. The new facilities would respond to the current needs of the University and surrounding community.

A presentation was given describing the current facilities and the future project design.

The Chair opened the table for questions and discussion of the presentation. Ms. Kashfi asked if there was an expected timeframe for the completion of the project. Ms. Sheahan noted that it is vital for the facilities to continue operating during the process, with as little disruption to the services provided as possible. The estimated timeframe for the entire project is four years. Information on government funding and renovation plans are expected to be more concrete if not before the holidays, then early in the new year 2009. Ms. Kashfi asked where funding would come from if the expected government funding does not come through. Ms. Sheahan explained that in the last few years, the provincial government set aside tax collected for payment of the Olympic Stadium into a fund for schools to apply for. Furthermore, if a school qualifies for funding at the provincial level, which Concordia University expects to, it will also qualify for infrastructure funding at the federal level. More answers on government funding should be available within the next eight weeks. Mr. Chivi asked how this project has not been affected by the University deficit. Ms. Sheahan replied that the funding of the project is not operation funding; it is treated as a distinct project, therefore will not be affected. Mr. Chivi questioned whether the funding for this project might not be put to better use by fixing the University's financial problems first. Ms. Sheahan noted that it is typical for capital projects to remain separate from operating projects. It would be very unusual that the capital funds could be transferred to operating projects. Mr. Côté added that there are legal issues involved as well; the funding cannot simply be reassigned to another project. Ms. Kashfi asked if the projected revenues would be injected directly back into Recreation & Athletics, or if revenues would be spread throughout the University where they are needed. Ms. Sheahan reminded the Council that the project would be financed; therefore a portion of revenues would be used to pay the financing. Remaining revenues would go back into capital projects and to pay off the operating budget, such as employee salaries. Mr. Côté confirmed that all revenue generated by the Student Services department would remain in the Student Services department. The Recreation & Athletics department has its own separate budget. Ms. Lin asked that if the actual student enrollment were to vary greatly from the projected figure, would there be a large change in projected revenue. Ms. Sheahan responded that the percentage of users would not be affected by such a variation. Ms. Lin asked where the revenues generated from student/community membership would be used, and Ms. Sheahan responded that they would be used to cover the direct costs of the services being provided, such as equipment maintenance, registration and reception.

Mr. Savard asked if anyone had considered expanding the shuttle bus services in order to accommodate to students traveling between campuses to the new facilities. Ms. Sheahan said that she did not know of any such plans, but that she would follow up to verify. Mr. Chivi suggested that staff and faculty members encourage this since he felt that their support would be more effective than student support alone. Ms. Gomes inquired if there would be a membership fee that students would have to pay for access to the new facilities. Ms. Sheahan replied that this would depend on what they would want to have access to. She expects that there will be free access hours for students at a time when there are no direct operating costs. Otherwise, it is expected that there will be a minimal fee for students to pay for the services. Ms. Gomes commented that, as many students have varied schedules and since access to these facilities may help them improve academically, there should be a way to provide free access for students at all times. Ms. Sheahan said that she would certainly look into it.

Mr. Chivi asked for a ratio of University community to non-University community users of Le Gym. Ms. Sheahan stated that fall 2008 registration was approximately 6,000 people, with only about 300 people from outside the University community. She reiterated that the University is careful to only promote to the outside community during the summer period, when the University community does not make use of the facilities as much. If at any time it was believed that service to the University community was being compromised, Ms. Sheahan maintained that the University would consider limiting outsiders to access only during the quiet summer period. Mr. Chivi asked if access would be interchangeable between the Loyola campus and the downtown campus. Ms. Sheahan confirmed that this would definitely be the case.

5.3 Bulletin Board Update

The Chair asked if the Council would allow guest Ms. Lussier to provide an update on the progress of the bulletin boards, and the Council agreed. Ms. Lussier reported that the exact amount of square footage previously allotted would be given back to the student body, although perhaps in different board dimensions. Ms. Lussier has asked for the bulletin boards to be placed in more prominent locations, and will confirm the exact locations when they have been approved. The boards are scheduled to be back up by November 10th, 2008.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Chivi requested an addition to the sub-committee responsible for the review of the poster policy. He suggested that the CCSL invite other faculty associations to give their input on the policy since it will directly affect them. Ms. Kashfi stated that other associations should be able to approve signage and give input since they are putting up their own posters. Mr. Wells said that he was also in support of this in light of recent issues that have arisen from the policy. He insisted that all associations have their ideas heard even if they do not have a vote on the policy. The Chair asked the Council if a motion was necessary to approve, and the Council approved without a motion.

Mr. Chivi inquired whether there had been any progress on institutionalizing double-sided printing in the library. Mr. Beasley said that he was unaware of any decisions, but that he would follow up on the issue. Ms. Kashfi noted that this is a very important issue for students, and that it would be a significant step forward for the University to have all library computers default to double-sided printing.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st, 2008, H-769 10am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Ms. Kashfi motioned to terminate the meeting. Ms. Stanbra seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.